



SNDT Women's university, Mumbai-20

Institutional Distinctiveness

A Step Towards Inclusive Society In its endeavor to produce trained rehabilitation professionals SNDT Women's University, Mumbai, established the Department of Special Education (DSE) in 1977, the first of its kind, in the country to offer multiple courses in Special Education at the graduate and postgraduate level. The programs offered include Ph.D. (Special Education), M.Ed., and B. Ed in disability-specific areas (Learning Disability, Intellectual Disability, Visual Impairment) and a Post Graduate Diploma in Management of Learning Disability. The Department's vision is Nurturing, Enabling Empowering People with Disabilities and its commitment is to provide quality education. The teaching faculty is well qualified and follows innovative teaching-learning methods. Students of DSE are able to achieve their fullest potential, the testimony to this, is our record of 100 campus placement. Our campus placement service is sought after by National and International Schools/Organisations. Psychoeducational assessments for children referred by various hospitals, clinics and schools are done in the department. Our diagnosis is considered valid by KEM and Sion hospital for disability certification. DSE also provides assessment, intervention and counseling services as required for all the students on the University campus. DSE extend its services to the community through its four MOUs with various schools and Universities and NGOs. Under the MOU, services like assessment, counseling, teacher training, student enhancement and curriculum development are offered. DSE also provides consultation on various research projects and implementation of training programs for other NGOs, mainstream schools, colleges and educational institutions. DSE has two experimental school set-ups called Arushi-The Learning Centre and Compensatory and Remedial Education (CARE). A team of qualified, and dedicated teachers cater to the needs of children with autism, cerebral palsy, intellectual disability, learning disabilities, pervasive developmental disorders and those who are slow learners. This also provides a platform for hands-on learning for the students of DSE to transfer theory into practice. To enhance the



development of the children of these units, a 'sensory garden' is being developed that will help to develop, integrate and enhance the senses while compensating for the interrupted perception of the world around them. The Department of Special Education has evolved over the years to meet the diverse needs of people with disabilities across varied educational levels. The DSE faculty are members of many National bodies and contribute to the development of national and state policies related to the rehabilitation of persons with disabilities. International conferences, National Conferences and many short-term courses and webinars are constantly planned by the department which becomes a huge learning platform not just for in-house students but also for professionals and students from other organizations. Capacity building for inclusive education practices is a constant endeavor for which many training programs are developed and implemented. DSE Symphony is a biannual newsletter published by the department that has some scholarly articles by distinguished professionals from the field of education and it also showcases the talent of students with disabilities to create sensitivity for diversity to be embraced to create a truly inclusive society. Few glimpses of DSE



